The Mat-Su Monitor

Volume 1 Issue 2 | The Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College, Palmer, Alaska | October 29, 1993

LIBRARIAN BOSS OF THE YEAR

Leza Madsen, MSC's head librarian, received the coveted "Boss of the Year" award from the Valley chapter of Professional Secretaries International on October 19, 1993. The winning essay\nomination for the contest, entitled "Tell Us Why Your Boss is the Best", was written by Gina Ketchum, Assistant Librarian at MSC. Ms. Ketchum says her essay was based on her perception of Leza as "fair, firm, flexible, friendly, and fashionable."

Leza was recently featured on the new faculty bulletin board and is responsible for the excellent banned books display across the hall from the library.

The Monitor congratulates our librarian on her honor!

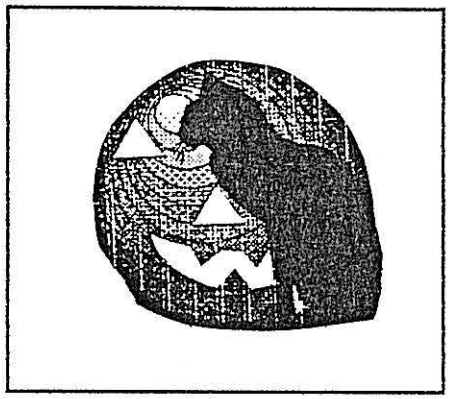
VIDEO MACHINE

Change for the video machine in the far corner of the cafeteria is available at the Student Government Office during business hours, which are M-Th from 11:30-4:30.

WE ARE GETTING THERE !

The roof is on. Phase I is done. Total completion of our new building is about 45%.

Anybody besides the Monitor staff like the idea of naming the building after Fred Machetanz, the local artist who donated several hundred acres to Mat-Su College?



LIBRARY LICORICE

The kindly folks at the MSC Library will be handing out candy to students and faculty during the Halloween season, as is their tradition. The sweet treats will be forthcoming on October 29 and 30, so if you run late and miss out, please don't soap the library windows!

EWING APPOINTED

Mark Ewing, an engineering major at MSC and co-editor of the Mat-Su Monitor, has been appointed to the Task Force on Tuition and Fees for the University of Alaska. He was chosen by Chancellor Donald Behrend as the student representative from the U of A system and is one of a group of four who will serve on the committee to recommend University policies regarding tuition and fees.

MSC TRAIL

by C. K. Wing

Want to take a walk on Mat-Su College's Nature Trail?

Several loops of the trail, totaling about one and a half miles, go through the birch forest near the college. It takes less than an hour, depending on your pace, to walk the longest loop.

A short five-minute walk from the back door of Snodgrass Hall is the Observation Deck. There you will find benches where you can relax and enjoy the view of Lazy Mountain, the Talkeetna Mountains, and the Chugach Mountains. You can also see Okeson Pond, named after Al Okeson of Mat-Su College. The trail goes down to the pond, which is thinly frozen over already.

There are two scenic outlooks, each on a spur off the main trail, where you can take in the view of mountains, bright white against the sky. Visible from one outlook are Bodenburg Butte and Knik Glacier. From the other outlook is a very nice view of Pioneer Peak. At another point on the trail, you can see the Twin Peaks. Signs posted at the outlooks tell about the geology of this region.

Many of the plants found throughout the course of the trail are

see TRAIL page 3

DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK !

Set those clocks back Saturday at Midnight and get a whole extra hour to go trick or treating! **Happy Halloween!**

OPINION

STICKY FINGERS PLAGUE MAT-SU ..... by Mark Ewing

The art thief has struck once again. A quilt was taken from the atrium. No windows were broken, nor was the door pried open in the middle of the night. The thief simply walked into the display area and removed the object of beauty. He/she then possibly concealed the quilt in a larger bag, briefcase, or god only knows. The disappearance of the art was soon common knowledge and the problem was addressed at a recent meeting of your Student Government Council.

This problem has not limited itself to just art. We have learned that this summer the Refrigeration and Heating Lab fell victim to a thief who removed a complete rack of gear pullers worth $1000 or more. What's strange about this is the lack of student classes at the time the crime was committed.

Other items have mysteriously vanished as if Houdini himself were the thief. At this point in time, anyone who attends classes here or that works at Mat-Su College is a suspect due to limited access to the campus during the summer months.

The responsibility of the safety and well being of our college not only lies with campus security, it also lies with you, the student population, as a whole.

The Student Government Office has made available its voice mail number 745-9759 to be utilized as a form of Campus

SEE STICKY PAGE 6

DEAN MASSAY – PART II – "THE DOC"

by Mark Ewing

Glenn Massay, like most college administrative heads, has a background that is deeply rooted in English and history. He obtained a Ph.D. in History at West Virginia University in 1970. Glenn also received a B.S. in Education from California State College in Pennsylvania in 1959. In 1958-1960, Glenn started in the education field as a Jr. High English teacher. By 1962, he rapidly moved into the position of Assistant Professor of History at Frostburg State College in West Virginia.

His educational experiences range from the Universite' De Paris (la Sorbonne) to Bethany College. He has gained numerous awards and has been recognized many times along the way. Glenn was selected for Outstanding Educators for the United States in 1970-71. He was a Jaycee finalist for the Distinguished Citizen Award and is also listed in the Directory of American Scholars (History).

Glenn's love of history is apparent by reviewing the number of his publications. The article "Fort Henry in the American Revolution," West Virginia History, vol. XXXIV (April, 1963) is just one example.

His first administrative role from 1967-1971, as Chairman -Division of Social Sciences, Fairmont State College,

SEE DEAN PAGE 6

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MAT-SU MONITOR

Mark Ewing--Co-Editor
Carolyn E. Long--Co-Editor
Michelle McGehee--Staff Secretary
Sharon Vander Sloot--Guest Columnist
Cindy K. Wing--Guest Columnist

TRAIL

indentified, with signs posted near examples. Though they are no longer in their prime, some can be found such as the curly, spent pods of fireweed. A few wrinkled cranberries remain on otherwise bare stems.

Spruce hens and squirrels can be seen occasionally and rarely, a bald eagle. There are moose footprints near the pond. If you are quiet and observant, you may see some of the local wildlife.

The trail was originally built for outdoor study of agriculture and forestry and is managed by the Mat-Su College Agriculture Department. Last summer the trail was rehabilitated and beautified by Roger Gossett, Jason Crockett, Zulie Mason, and Cindy Wing.

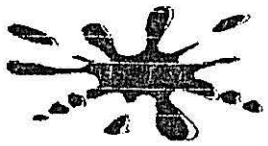
The trail crew cleared brush that was overgrowing and narrowing the trail, made a new section of trail at the front trailhead, built a new boardwalk to the pond, and put in benches and a picnic table.

The trail is open to the public. The section of the trail from Snodgrass Hall to the Observation Deck is accessible by wheelchair. There is also a new section of trail going around the Observation Deck to provide less steep access to more of the trail. Beyond that, the trail can be steep and bumpy in places.

A group of 8th-grade students from Colony Middle School toured the trail in September to supplement their study of plants. One student said about his visit, "The Nature Trail was very beautiful and I'd like to go back."

It is beautiful and crisp out in the woods. Maps are available outside the front entrance of the Kerttula Building. A sign at the end of the front parking lot shows the way to the trailhead. Go around the fenced-off area (part of the construction) and you'll find the new trailhead, marked by another sign.

Please see page 8 for a map.



NOTICE TO ALL ARTISTS

The Dorothy G. Page Museum of the City of Wasilla announces a Christmas Exhibit. Area artists and craftspersons are invited to enter one Christmas Tree Ornament and /or one Christmas Card each. Entries must have been made by the artist during the past year.

All local artists are eligible to enter and there is no entry fee. Items must be submitted by November 10 and picked up between December 26th and 31st. The entries may be for sale.

Pick up entry forms at the Museum on Main Street, the Chamber of Commerce in the Cottonwood Creek Mall, or at Wasilla City Hall. For more information, call the Museum at 373-9071.

DEAR SAMANTHA

Dear Samantha,

My boyfriend seems to care more for his sled dogs than he does me. They get chicken and liver and I get cornflakes. He never remembers my birthday, but always signs up for the Iditarod on time. What can I do to make him pay more attention to me?

Sick of Dogs

Dear Sick of Dogs,

Unless you want to don a furry suit and get into harness with the dogs, I'd say it's a lost cause for you. Better lose that musher and find a guy mature enough to appreciate a real woman.

Samantha

FAIRBANKS MEETING BUILDS NET

On September 24-26, three members of the Mat-Su College Student Government and staff attended the Student Government Leadership Conference at the University of Fairbanks. They were Mark Ewing, President; David Jones, Senator; and Michelle McGehee, staff secretary.

Our representatives were present at a meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska during which the Regents discussed and heard comments from various University groups on such items as tuition raises, a new library and parking garage for UAA, and a System Governance policy change.

The main purpose of the Leadership Conference was to "Build the NET" or to unite the Student Governments of all the outlying rural campuses with the three major campuses, UAF, UAA, and UAS. This "NET" is called the "Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska."

Adequate representation for each rural campus is still under consideration by the NET. The most current proposal is that the three main campuses will have two votes, the medium density schools such as MSC will have one vote, and the low density schools will have one vote for a total of four votes overall.

A major concern of the NET is a research project to determine what the requirements of the rural campuses are in regards to distance education (TV, teleconferences, etc.).

The state constitution of Alaska specifies that the post-secondary educational system will serve the needs of the state. Members of the NET feel strongly that distance education ought to provide at a minimum all the core general education classes for the system-wide University of Alaska.

The NET is also actively working to secure student loans indexed to the cost of living as well as variable interest rates for the loans.

The CUBE>> a presentation of the MSC MATH CLUB: by Tim Kimbrough

IT has been brought to my attention that students have been asking about math tutorials. In this issue I would like to discuss the avenues available to find help for Math, or any other subject for that matter! Okay, let's get started!

I can't speak for other subjects but I know we have math help in at least five different locations on campus. So..... Here's a roadmap to finding what you've always wanted to know about whatever.

I. The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is the best place to start your quest for help. The crew at the LRC gets a Five Star Rating for help. They have the best of both worlds. They have faculty and student tutors, plus tutorials in audio and video form. As far as math is concerned, they have lower level math videos and tutors to help with upper and lower division math.

Now the road map! Go to the registrars desk and face the cow picture. Do a 180 degree turn and walk down the hall, past the bookstore, and stop before you walk through the glass door. If you think you're lost hang in there, you're almost there. Turn left and walk through the door, you're in the LRC.

II. The Library has a complete setup of tutorials in its video section. The video room is the first door on your left as you go around the checkout counter. The Librarians will help you if there is some confusion on how to find or use the learning aids.

I checked out the Math tutorials and found they have a large selection. The VCR section begins with basic math and leads you through Trig. For those wanting higher Math, the library has many books on the subjects in its regular book sections. Also the Math Club is looking at getting video tutorials to address these subjects by the end of this semester.

III. The MSC Math Club has received help from the college in acquiring a computer with math tutorials. The new 486 machine is located in the VAX Lab and is open to all students. The program for running the tutorials is in the MathCad program. There are tutorial books beside the machine for operating the system and finding quick help.

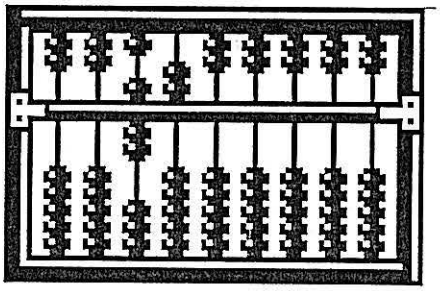
MathCad is a very expansive and powerful math program that requires some practice to get familiar with. It is not a program for game players and beginning computer students. It can get fairly complicated in its calculations. You will find the tutorials under the Books listing in the main menu. Feel free to explore the program but remember, it is for all the students to use. In other words, if someone is doing their term paper on the MathCad computer, don't go banging them on the head with your calculator to get to the math program. They have as much right to use it as you do!

QUICK QUIZ: From the Ancient Mathematicians, What is the modern term we use for the ancients ***SUNYA****?*

IV. If you are still stumped? Go to Dr. Chang and ask for some help. He is more than willing to help the students. He may even have a book you could borrow to get you through your woes.

V. If at this point, you are nawing the erasers off your mechanical pencils and you still haven't gotten an answer to your question, go to the book store. It'll cost you some bucks but they do have second hand and new copies of the books used for all classes (if they are not sold out). Like I said they ain't cheap but they do make good reference books.

Finally, if after all your anguish, you haven't found the answer, grab a Math Club Member and quiz their mind. They might not have the answer but they can get you started in the right direction.



HOLIDAY FUN

Provided by MSC Math Dept:

1. In the space provided below, write any three digit number. The first and last digit must differ by more than one.
2. Reverse the order of the three digits and subtract the smaller three digit number from the larger three digit number.
3. Reverse the digits of your answer in step 2 and add it to the answer in step 2.
4. Multiply your answer by 10 to the eleventh power.
5. Subtract by 78,440,213,570,891.
6. Under each 0, write an **A.**
   Under each 1, write a **D.**
   Under each 2, write an **E.**
   Under each 3, write an **H.**
   Under each 4, write a **K.**
   Under each 5, write a **P.**
   Under each 6, write an **R.**
   Under each 7, write a **T.**
   Under each 8, write a **U.**
   Under each 9, write a **Y.**
7. Write your answer below:

LITERARY ITEMS

Ascension Boots

Something to give you direction
Preferably up. Up.
An ascension boot is something
you put on at my age.

A lift, life loft.

Trudging's not forgiven.
Toes must come off the ground.

Not tripping or dancing?
Why not!! Triumphantly.

Ascension boots are shit-kicking
boots.
They gleam in anticipation of the
dance; never stay in closets.

Hold me by a string, my feet
are higher than my head!

These are the boots they told little catholic
girls not to wear. Nothing uniform about them.

Heave ho!
I hear music.

by Kelli Mahoney

Kelli Mahoney is a student at MSC majoring in Social Work.

JOKE

Q. Why was T. S. Eliot a poet who was also twin street Santas?

A. Because he said, "I should have been a pair of ragged claws."

(The first student at MSC to correctly identify what poem this line is from wins a small prize from the poetry editor.)

The Mat-Su Matchmaker

The Mat-Su Monitor is pleased to present a singles column. If you are interested in an ad, bring us your vital statistics in the following format.

DESCRIPTIVE WORD: MAJOR: GENDER: # OF KIDS (OR THE LIKE) : AGE : CODE NAME.

For example:

Lonely, physics, M, 2 kids, 30, Gravity.

or:

Beautiful, Engineering, F, 1 Cat, 25, Ratio

We will keep your ads on file. Persons wishing to respond to an ad may leave a phone number and any other information desired at the Monitor office. This information will be forwarded to the advertiser who will then be able to respond at his or her discretion. Advertisers may pick up any responses to ads during Student Government hours, M-Th, 11:30 to 4:30.

MATCHMAKERS FOR OCTOBER

** Warm, Art, F, 49, Silver

** Active, Ref.& Heat., M, 1 kid, 42, Steamy

** Sexy, Elect. Tech, M, 30+, 1 kid, Sparky

** Available, Elect. Tech, M, 40+, Ready

** Alaskan, Social Work, M, 46, 8 dogs, Woodsy

MODEM DONATED

Wes Van Loon, Professor of Economics at MSC, has donated a modem to the Student Government. This valuable gift will help the SG to communicate more quickly and efficiently with other offices around the state when conducting its business.

DEAN

Fairmont, West Virginia, soon led to a position as Academic Dean at Parkersburg Community College, Parkersburg, West Virginia, from 1971-1973. By January 1973, Glenn had acccepted the responsibilities of College President at Southern West Virginia Community College.

During this period, he was contacted to consider the task of forming a new community college in Alaska - the Tanana Valley Community College in Fairbanks. By October 1974, Glenn and his family had made the transfer from the warmth of West Virginia to the challenges of Fairbanks, Alaska, where he accepted the position of Director with the rank of Associate Professor of History. The title was later changed to Campus President.

It was at Tanana that Glen discovered his new found love...Alaska. She slowly embraced him in her bosom of beauty and her arms of change.

In 1980, the Dean finally found the fruition of his calling and was able to let his roots nourish in the fertile soils of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. This focus took the form of a little college nestled in a fast growing community where he was appointed Dean Of Instruction.

The college was surrounded by dramatically peaked mountains and a community of people as diversified and inwardly as beautiful as the scenery that the Lord had provided.

Matanuska-Susitna College had been struggling to satisfy the local community's need for higher education, but lack of space was the unceasing enemy that hindered the growth process at the school.

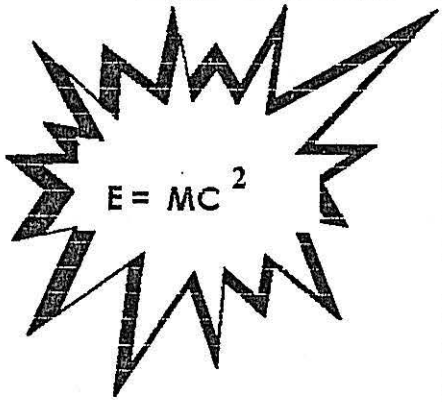
This is a problem that Glenn still fights at times with the help of political allies. His ability to lash out at and solve the injustice that has plagued our collegiate growth has transformed Matanuska-Susitna College into the medium density university it is today. And he had certainly inspired our motto "Come grow with us!"

Part II has centered on The Doc. In Part III, I will bring this series into the present with "She Runs the Iditarod."

STICKY

Crime Stoppers. You need not leave your name. All calls will be forwarded to security. Report any activity that has a suspicious appearance - regardless of how small of a discrepancy it may seem at the time.

I personally feel saddened that the repercussions of the recent art theft have directly led to our recent art display of a visquine nimbus that carried an artistic value of nothing. I believe that the reflection of its monetary value is symbolic of its net worth as art. It seems that an induced punishment against all students was the main intent of the paperclip suspended poly-albatross.



INNER PRODUCT SPACES?

Linear Algebra, Math 314, will be offered in the fall semester of 94 at MSC. The upper division class concentrates on linear equations, matrices, determinants, and linear transformations, as well as some adventures into inner and outer space for the mathematically courageous. See Dr. Chang for your space suit.

DRUG FREE WEEK

MSC and the Student Government celebrated Drug Free Week during October 24 - 30 by passing out five hundred red ribbons and making a donation to Nugen's Ranch.

ASHRAE

The Mat-Su College student chapter of **ASHRAE** (the refrigeration and heating club) opened the 93-94 school year with election of officers.

Results are: President, Jim Baize; Vice President, Jim Emsten; Treasurer, Greg Parker.

The members of ASHRAE offer their fellow students some helpful hints to assist them around the house.

* * *

What is the third largest user of energy in your home? You got it. It's the domestic refrigerator. Does yours always seem to be on? To keep your energy costs down, observe the following:

1. Keep it defrosted on a regular basis.

2. The dust monsters ***must*** be kept out from underneath and off the back of the refrigerator.

3. Do not overpack your freezer thereby blocking the fan.

Members of **ASHRAE** will have more energy saving tips in future issues.

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FACULTY BULLETIN BOARD

The new Faculty Bulletin Board next to the Business Office Window is the work of Elizabeth Fallon, Professor of English at MSC.

The board will feature mini-biographies and pictures of staff and faculty. Mrs. Fallon plans to highlight one staff member, one full-time faculty member, and one adjunct faculty member each week.

The board for the week of October 17 featured Hannah Leary, a counselor , and Judith Bronson, Professor of English and Philosophy.

LIGHTS ON?

Do not despair! The helpful fellows in Security will give you a jump.

" NOT COMFORTABLE FOR NUDISTS?"

(quote from the comments notebook)

The latest art show in the atrium, the work of David Edlefson, a well-known Anchorage artist, opened October 9th and ran for approximately two and a half weeks.

The show was titled "The Space is the Art." It consisted of two drapings of semi-transparent light weight plastic that hung from ceiling to floor, as well as two large armchairs that had been wrapped in plastic.

Five chairs of similar design were arranged in a semi-circle around a small round coffee table inside the three sided main draping. One of the wrapped chairs was placed under the smaller of the plastic hangings. The official artist's comment for the show was posted by the entrance and was written by Mr. Edlefson's ten year old daughter.

The final component of the show was a notebook on the coffee table for comments by the public.

It may come as a surprise to some of the MSC viewers of the show that Mr. Edlefson's work regularly commands high prices. While the show was typical of his work in that he frequently uses recycled materials and plastics, this particular display may have been a reaction to the recent art thefts in the atrium.

Not only was the work installational art, which by its very nature is destroyed when removed, but judging from most of the comments both overheard and written in the notebook, no one was likely to steal it anyway.

In spite of the controversy over the show, it has neatly fullfilled the artist's purpose. Installational art is meant to challenge the viewer's concepts of what "art" is and to stimulate his perceptions of new and exciting dimensions.

The title of the show,"The Space is the Art," gives the clue to its function. The viewer was to notice how the drapings and billows of the sheeting altered the normal space of the atrium and to have interacted with this by enjoying and accepting the changes.

On a technical level, a darker and\or heavier grade of plastic might have been more effective in achieving a new division of space.

However, the work also produced some thoughtful discussions as to the use of plastic as a commentary on modern society, in regards to both the material itself and its too-easy disposability.

The show provoked, amused, and angered its audience. One viewer asked, "Is this a condom for the mind?" And I reply to that, "If this is so, then why should art have to be safe?"

by C.E. Long

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

GLORIA HENSEL

by Sharon Vander Sloot

It's official! As of August 15, Office Management Technology Instructor **Gloria Hensel** joined the ranks of full-time faculty at Mat-Su College. Congratulations, Gloria!

Gloria began working for the college in 1974, when many of the school's typewriters were still the old finger-crunching manual type. Due to lack of space, typing classes were held off campus then, at the used-to-be Palmer High School (currently Palmer Middle School).

In addition to Typing (Keyboarding in today's language), Gloria has taught the full gamut of OMT courses including: Business Math, Professional Secretarial Procedures, Shorthand, Business English, Records Management, and others.

Gloria first arrived in the Mat-Su Valley in January of '73 during a horrific windstorm that blew a barn fifty feet off its foundation! She had never been enthusiastic about moving to Alaska. In fact, a friend of hers had once commented that moving to Alaska was her dream, to which Gloria replied, "It's my nightmare!"

Gloria's husband John, on the other hand, loved life in the Last Frontier and had originally consoled her by saying that if she still didn't like Alaska after living in it for a year, they could move back to the lower '48.

When she informed him of her continued displeasure a year later, however, his reply was that she had a "bad attitude," and that she should give it another try.

But after living here with John for the past twenty years and raising three children together, Alaska has truly become home to Gloria. Fortunately for

HUMAN SERVICES CLUB

A group of students at MSC who are working on degrees in the Human Services field are starting a new club, the Human Services Club.

Jennifer Baggett, a club organiser, says sixteen members have signed up so far. She hopes for a total of at least thirty-five. Teresa Swedo, adjunct instructor of Human Services at MSC, is the club's faculty advisor.

The club's goals are to network among other students and workers in the field and to host informative seminars for the members.

The club will meet at least once a month and is planning to have a minimum of two all-day seminars a year, with certificates issued for attendence.

Ms. Baggett notes that Human Services is the fastest growing major at MSC and that about 75% of such students are women.

Anybody interested in joining the club may contact Ms. Baggett for further information at 892-6659.

both the students and staff of Mat-Su College, leaving is no longer an issue.

The new OMT Skill Center, located in Snodgrass Hall, is a project that Gloria is very proud to have helped bring into fruition this past year. She and a handful of others, including Carolyn Covington and Howard Lowery, worked diligently to write a grant for the center's funding.

The grant award not only enabled the college to offer an open-entry/open-exit program, which better meets the needs of valley residents, it also covered the cost of upgrading the center's now state-of-the-art equipment.

Gloria's vision for the future is that the center will operate a placement service for its students. Such a service could greatly benefit employers and students alike, since students would be groomed to meet employers' specific needs. An apprenticeship program might even be offered.

Besides the excitement of attaining full-time faculty status and opening the Skill Center, last spring Gloria was nominated from among both Anchorage and Mat-Su faculty for Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Although she was not chosen, she says that being nominated was an honor.

Our heartiest thanks to Gloria for her nearly twenty years of dedicated service in preparing students for work and continued growth in the ever-advancing field of Office Management Technology.

NOTICES

ASHRAE meets the first Thursday of every month. See R & F people for details.

ART CLUB will meet November 15th at 6:00 in the Art Room. Plans for an informative brochure will be discussed. Maybe Matisse will drop by again.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT will meet on October 29, at 5:30 in room 126.

Contact J. Baggett for info on **HUMAN SERVICES CLUB.** 892-6659

NOONSINGERS are still belting it out at NOON, yes, noon, in Room 108 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They still need more warblers for their flock. In Spring semester, this singing effort can gain you class credit.

GEOG 103, SEC 101, World Economic Geography, will be offered on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:45 PM in Spring semester.

MATH CLUB meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

GEO CLUB meets Tuesday of every month in Room 124. at noon.

* * * * *

ONE MORE SEMINAR!

How to Get the Most Out of Reading Your Textbooks : November 5 from 1-3 PM in Room 211. Instructor: Elizabeth Fallon .

THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER is open with varying hours and tutors. See the schedules on the bulletin boards for details.

SECURITY ESCORTS are available at 9:45 PM to the far parking lot.

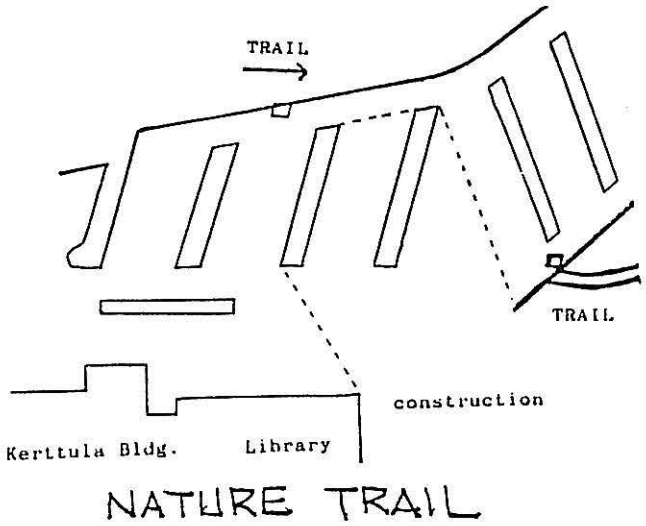
ANSWERS to last month's **CUBE** problems:

BRAIN TEASER: Avagadro.

MILD: 14 lbs. of the #3.30/lb coffee and 11 lbs. of the #3.80/lb. coffee.

MEDIUM: 105 feet of guy wire required:

HOT: Approximately 11 days, 4 hours, and 30 seconds.



NATURE TRAIL